simultaneous use of both runways, improved ATC procedures, restriction on general aviation aircraft movement, ATC automation system etc.

Expansion of Shimla airport

†4297. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have any scheme for the expansion of the Shimla airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh to construct a new airport in Sundernagar; and

(d) if so, the action being taken thereupon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Developmental works to the possible extent are being carried out at Shimla airport, Himachal Pradesh which includes, enhancement of space by carrying out modifications in the existing Terminal Building and construction of a new Fire Station of category IV & Emergency Medical Centre etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Further initiation in the matter is subject to submission of Techno-Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR) by the State Government for Construction of a Greenfield airport along with NOC from Ministry of Defence and environmental clearance and meteorological data of the site.

Shortage of pilots

†4298. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of pilots to compete the competitive challenges successfully at National and International level keeping in view the rapid expansion of Civil Aviation service;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that adverse situation is a result of non-compliance of phased plan according to the time to bring trained pilots in the Civil-Aviation Sector;

(c) whether Air Force has been requested by the Department of Civil Aviation to provide special assistance in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) As against requirement of 1580 sets of crew equivalent to 3140 professional pilots, 2940 pilots are available leaving a shortfall of 7%.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, requests by the flying training institutes to hire Defence pilots for imparting flying training are being considered on merit and priority.

Compensation to shareholders of M/s. Uncle Chipps

4299. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s Pepsico India Holdings Pvt. Ltd. had taken over M/s. Uncle chipps Company Ltd.;

(b) if so, what was the scheme of merger and whether all the shareholders of M/s Uncle Chipps as on the date of merger have been allotted shares in the M/s Pepsico India Holding Pvt. Ltd.;

(c) if not, whether any compensation was paid to the shareholders of M/s. Uncle Chipps;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) what action shall be taken against M/s. Pepsico India Holdings Pvt. Ltd. to ensure that shareholders of M/s. Uncle Chipps get the share of the merged company or compensation in lieu of that?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.